



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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March 10, 2010

"Nature- the sublime, the harsh, and the beautiful- offers something that the sheet or gated community or computer game cannot...it offers an environment where children can easily contemplate infinity and eternity."

- Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods*

Happy Spring, Facilitators! We hope that you all enjoyed your winter and are now as excited as we are with the changes in the weather. Spring is a time of heightened activity for many creatures, including us. There are several workshops already on the schedule for the next few months, and more are coming in. We have had multiple calls requesting workshops in various parts the state and we do our best to connect educators with facilitators in their area. This is sometimes easier said than done. A very big *thank you* goes out to those of you who are able to travel short distances to share these programs.

Program Updates:

Wisconsin Proudly Trains 1613 Educators in PLT for 2009

As the state sponsor, the DNR reports the following results of the hard work and dedication of 26 active facilitators in our state. Of these facilitators, 14 served pre-service students at our colleges or universities; six are professors. Several workshops were delivered in combination with other programs; Project WET, 4; Project WILD, 23; Project WET/WILD 4; LEAF 1; PLT & EC 7.

Workshop Type	Number of Workshops	Educators Served
PLT Early Childhood	33	754
PreK-8 Workshops	9	144
PreK-12 Workshops	2	30
Pre-service Students (Teachers in training)	23	685

PLT was expanded through national/international partnerships: Two recipients were awarded GreenWorks Grants from national PLT to put environmental education into action in their communities. Staff and Elizabeth Janvrin hosted two Uruguayan Fulbright Educators and trained them in Project Learning Tree and the Wisconsin PLT early childhood program.

Staff attended nine regional and state conferences to promote the program through exhibits and sessions, reaching a potential audience of 8500 educators.

WEEB Forestry Education Grant Trains 462 Educators and More

In 2008, Wisconsin PLT was awarded \$20,000 for enhancing forestry education in Wisconsin. These funds were directed in large part to the PLT early childhood education program to reach educators who teach early learners. With hard work and dedication to our PLT program (530 hours), Wisconsin facilitators were able to deliver programs directly to 462 early childhood education professionals. These facilitators included: Dawn Kocaja, Bev Bryant, Elizabeth Janvrin, Christopher Tall, PLT Assistant Coordinator, and Janet Hutchens, State Coordinator. Audiences reached included: Head Start, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, Family Resource Centers in the greater La Crosse area, and Milwaukee Public Schools. Wisconsin PLT also partnered with LEAF and Division of Forestry to develop a Sugar Maple poster depicting tree structure to be used with several forestry education programs. A total of 11,000 copies were printed and 8367 have been distributed through the PLT

workshops, Arbor Day contest program and LEAF education program. Nature Recycles posters were also reprinted and will be distributed with future PLT workshops as well as the Wee Recyclers program.

Project WET Numbers on the Rise in 2009

Last year, 13 workshops were held reaching a total of 188 educators. Of the total number of participants, 47 were pre-service educators. WET workshops combined with other workshops included; 1 PLT/WILD/PLTEC; 3 PLT/WILD; 1 WILD. Eight workshops were held that served 116 pre-service educators. Amalia Baldwin, Assistant WET/WILD Coordinator, presented at the Wisconsin Lakes Convention, State of Lake Michigan Conference, Wisconsin Education Association Council, and the Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association Annual Conference.

Wisconsin Community Organizations Receive Grants from Project Learning Tree

Two community organizations have received GreenWorks! Community Action & Service Learning Grant grants from National Project Learning Tree. Portage Community School Forest Outdoor Classroom received \$5000 where students and staff at the school, as well as other community members, will create a usable space for teachers in the school forest. Ten teachers will participate in a PLT workshop to learn how to better utilize the school forest as an outdoor classroom. The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee will receive \$750 for the Cass Street Club CLC Community Vegetable Garden. The Cass Street Garden Club will restore a playground garden by planning, planting, and tending vegetables. Each grade level will have a different responsibility for the garden. In addition to applying math, science, and other skills, the students will learn the basics of creating a business.

Congratulations to both organizations and their commitment to making a difference in how young people think and feel about their community and their relationship with the environment.

Please note, due to tough economic times, GreenWorks! Grants have been put on hold for 2010.

New Resources:

[Project Learning Tree: Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood](#) activity guide is released. The guide, developed using the WI and MN early childhood guides, contains eleven activities that encourage young children to explore the senses, the seasons, and neighborhood trees. Using the Wisconsin model, the activities highlight the importance of kinetic learning and engagement by incorporating music and movement using an accompanying music CD. Wisconsin PLT will continue to use up our supply of guides in 2010 until they are exhausted. Extra CDs are available to distribute at workshops upon request. Implementation of the new program is being discussed. If you are interested in becoming trained in this new program, please contact Christopher Tall at christopher.tall@wisconsin.gov.

New Poster Now Available

Project WET and Project Wild facilitators... We have a new and exciting resource available for use in workshops! The new [Key to Life in a Wetland](#) poster is similar to the Key to Life in a Stream poster, but it is specifically designed to show macroinvertebrates that like to hang out in wetlands. On the backside of the poster, a shaded wheel provides a Key to Wisconsin Amphibians. This poster is not listed on the new Education Connection, but can be ordered by providing Annie, annemarie.kalson@wisconsin.gov or 608-264-6280, with the supply number WT-908. It is bundled in packs of 25.

[DNR Climate change web site](#) launched: Find out what is happening as partners in the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) take on these issues.

EPA Releases First-Ever [Baseline Study of U.S. Lakes](#)

New [Wisconsin Great Lakes Teaching Resource](#) goes Online.

Learn about [Beech bark disease](#) in Wisconsin and the insect associated with the disease.

2010 Arbor Day National Poster Contest theme is ***Trees are Terrific . . . and Energy Wise!*** The contest is closed, but teachers can benefit from the [lesson materials](#).

[Fourth Grade Arbor Day Free Tree Program](#), applications due March 15, 2010.



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